IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 13-27 and 19-26 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the recited subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 2 and 3, as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, all claims currently pending in this application have been reproduced below:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A bearing assembly comprising:

a guide having a top side provided with a guide surface comprising a magnetic body;

a moving body which moves along the guide surface;

a first movable guide which moves along the guide surface and moves said moving body in a first direction;

a second movable guide which moves along the guide surface and moves said moving body in a second direction which is orthogonal to the first direction;

a bearing provided on a portion of said first and second movable guides that opposes the guide surface; and

a magnet, which has an opposing surface that opposes the guide surface, provided on said first and second movable guides for the purpose of applying a magnetic attractive force between said first and second movable guides and the guide surface[[;]].

wherein a relationship of the size and/or placement of the guide surface and the opposing surface of said magnet is defined for the purpose of limiting displacement of said first and second movable guides in a width direction, which is orthogonal to a travelling direction of each of said first and second movable guides, to an allowable range, using a magnetic attractive force in the width direction produced in accordance with an amount of deviation of the opposing surface of said magnet from the guide surface owing to displacement, which can occur when each of said first and second movable guides moves in the width direction, and

wherein a size of the guide surface in the width direction is defined by a groove, which extends along the traveling direction, provided in the top side of said guide, and a terminus, which extends along the traveling direction, of the top side of said guide.

3. (Currently Amended) A bearing assembly comprising:

a guide having a top side provided with a guide surface comprising a magnetic body;

a moving body which moves along the guide surface;

a first movable guide which moves along the guide surface and moves said moving body in a first direction;

a second movable guide which moves along the guide surface and moves said moving body in a second direction which is orthogonal to the first direction;

a bearing provided on a portion of said first and second movable guides that opposes the guide surface; and

a magnet, which has an opposing surface that opposes the guide surface, provided on said first and second movable guides for the purpose of applying a magnetic attractive force between said first and second movable guides and the guide surface[[;]],

wherein a relationship of the size and/or placement of the guide surface and the opposing surface of said magnet is defined for the purpose of limiting displacement of said first and second movable guides in a width direction, which is orthogonal to a traveling direction of each of said first and second movable guides, to an allowable range, using a magnetic attractive force in the width direction produced in accordance with an amount of deviation of the opposing surface of said magnet from the guide surface owing to displacement, which can occur when each of said first and second movable guides moves in the width direction, and

wherein the top side of said guide is provided with a protrusion, which extends along the traveling direction, so as to oppose said magnet, and said guide surface is formed by the top side of said protrusion opposing said magnet.

4. (Original) The assembly according to claim 2, wherein the size of the guide surface in the width direction is the same as or smaller than the size of the opposing surface of said magnet in the width direction.

5. (Original) The assembly according to claim 3, wherein the size of the guide surface in the width direction is the same as or smaller than the size of the opposing surface of said magnet in the width direction.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The assembly according to claim 2, wherein the size of the guide surface in the width direction is the same as or greater than the size of the opposing surface of said magnet in the width direction.

9. (Original) The assembly according to claim 3, wherein the size of the guide surface in the width direction is the same as or greater than the size of the opposing surface of said magnet in the width direction.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 2, wherein an end portion of the guide surface along the traveling direction is defined by a groove that extends in a direction orthogonal to the traveling direction.

12. (Previously Presented) The assembly according to claim 3, wherein an end portion of the guide surface along the traveling direction is defined by an end portion, which extends along the traveling direction, of the top side of said protrusion.

13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A stage apparatus comprising:

a guide provided with a surface comprising a magnetic body;

a moving body movable along the surface in a first direction and a second direction;

a first movable guide which moves in the second direction, moves said moving body in the second direction and guides said moving body in the first direction;

a second movable guide which moves in the first direction, and moves said moving body in the first direction and guides said moving body in the second direction; and

magnets placed in said first and second movable guides, which produce magnetic attractive forces with the magnetic body,

wherein the magnetic body and said magnets are provided so that movement of said first movable guide in the second direction is limited by the magnetic attractive force and movement of said second movable guide in the first direction is limited by the magnetic attractive force,

wherein said guide has a first groove extending along the first direction and a second groove extending along the second direction on the surface, and

wherein the movement of said first guide is limited by the first groove and the movement of said second guide is limited by the second groove.

19-26. (Canceled)